REMARKS

The objection to the disclosure has been addressed. Applicants note, however, that the reference to "40 sensors" means the number of sensors, not a sensor designated by the numeral "40."

The rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph ¶2 is traversed, and reconsideration of that rejection is respectfully requested.

With regard to Claim 1, applicants submit that the questioned language correctly reads on the embodiments of Figs. 1 and 14. In the latter, the second lead 15H2E is branched from the first electrode 13H2E.

Concerning Claim 2, the question of "how" is the province of the disclosure. In any event, applicants note that the physical quantity is measured by the first leads and electrodes with the second leads disconnected.

The rejection of Claims 1-6 as being unpatentable over Nakada et al. in view of Watanabe et al. under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action acknowledges that, at a minimum, the Nakada et al. patent, "fails to show the lead conductors to be formed to extend to an outer circumferential end of said substrate." The Examiner reads the wires 50 in Fig. 2 of Nakada et al. as the second lead connectors. Applicants would note, however, that these connectors 50 are not formed on a substrate but are "floating" above the substrate as shown in Fig. 1.

The Office Action similarly misconstrues the Watanabe et al. apparatus in stating that "second leads (19) [are] formed to extend to the outer circumference of the substrate (fig. 12) and [are] electrically connected to ends of the resistor." Numeral 19 in Fig. 12 of the Watanabe et al. patent designates electrodes, not a lead connected to an electrode.

Absent impermissible hindsight, one of ordinary skill would not have combined the teachings of the Nakada et al. and Watanabe et al. patents in the manner suggested in the Office Action. Assuming, for argument's sake, that some combination could have been made absent hindsight, the result would not have been the device of Claims 1-6. This particularly evident from the acknowledgements in the Office Action that the Nakada et al. patent "is silent of the type of material used for resistors."

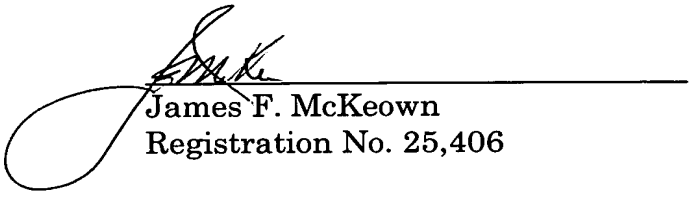
The Office Action makes a further legal error in asserting that no weight is given to the limitation of Claim 2. The claimed features defines a physical characteristic of applicants' invention irrespective of when the disconnection portion is employed. Absent a teaching of that feature in the claimed combination in the prior art, Claim 2 is patentable.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #05620549697).

Respectfully submitted,



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